

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/615,597
Attorney Docket Q76478
August 3, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, please amend the fourth paragraph to read as follows:

This invention is thus based on the technical problem of providing an apparatus and a method, wherein ~~a visible~~an invisible seam is produced in the airbag cover, said seam remaining invisible even under the influence of temperature and moisture and long-term ageing, and the functionality of the airbag, i.e. the bursting of the airbag cover as a result of airbag release or inflation, is maintained.

Page 4, please amend the fifth and sixth paragraphs to read as follows:

According to a simply producible embodiment of the present invention, the weakened region of the second layer and the weakening of the first layer extend in a ~~wave-like~~sinuous or zigzag manner.

It is also possible to effectively produce a preferred embodiment of the present invention in which the weakened region of the second layer extends linearly and the weakening of the first layer extends in a ~~wave-like~~sinuous or zigzag manner. In a similar manner, it is advantageous for the weakened region of the second layer to extend in a ~~wave-like~~sinuous or zigzag manner and for the weakening of the first layer to extend linearly.

Page 6, please amend the descriptions of Fig. 4 and 5 as follows and also add the following new descriptions for Figures 6-9 inclusive:

Fig 4: shows a cross-sectional view of an airbag cover of the invention according to another embodiment having no weakened region; **and**

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Fig. 5: shows a cross-sectional view of the airbag cover of Fig. 4 having a weakened region;

Fig. 6 is a schematic view of the weakened regions of the first and second layers according to a first embodiment;

Fig. 7 is a schematic view of the weakened regions of the first and second layers according to a second embodiment;

Fig. 8 is a schematic view of the weakened regions of the first and second layers according to a third embodiment; and

Fig. 9 is a schematic view of the weakened regions of the first and second layers according to a fourth embodiment.

Page 8, please amend the third full paragraph to read as follows:

According to a further non-illustrated embodiment, the airbag cover according to the invention can be reinforced by an attached strip on the rear side in the zone of the weakened region to avoid breaking the bond of the first and second layers. In addition, the weakened region can also be partially or completely closed on the surface, e.g. by welding, bonding or sewing, to prevent breaking of the airbag cover.

Page 9, please amend the second paragraph to read as follows:

According to a preferred embodiment of the airbag cover according to the invention, the first layer is also weakened specifically along the required tear line, e.g. by scoring. The second layer is then laminated thereto, and the second layer is subsequently weakened in a further operating cycle. This weakening of the second layer may be congruent with, or partially

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congruent with, the weakening of the first layer or may be made at a certain distance, the weakening of the second layer extending in a wave-like sinuous or zigzag manner and the weakening of the first layer extending linearly or also in a wave-like sinuous or zigzag manner. The weakening may be made, for example, by punching and the second layer can be specifically weakened before both layers are joined with each other. An airbag cover having a specific tear run which is not visible from the outside even under the influence of temperature and moisture and long-term ageing is thus obtained.

after the second paragraph please insert the following paragraphs and amend the last paragraph on the page to read as follows:

Figure 6 is a schematic view of the second layer showing the superimposed weakness patterns for the first and second layers. The inner surface of the first layer is provided with linear scoring shown by heavy lines to define a weakened region. The second layer is provided with a zig-zag through opening shown in light lines which overlies the linear scoring in the first layer.

Figure 7 is a schematic bottom view of the second layer showing the superimposed weakness patterns for the first and second layers. The inner surface of the first layer is provided with zig-zag scoring showing heavy lines to define a weakened region. The second layer is provided with a linear through opening which overlies the zig-zag scoring in the first layer.

Figure 8 is a schematic bottom view of the second layer showing the superimposed weakness patterns for the first and second layers. The inner surface of the first layer is provided with linear scoring shown by heavy lines to define a weakened region. The second layer is

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provided with a sinuous through opening shown in light lines which overlies the linear scoring in the first layer.

Figure 9 is a schematic bottom view of a second layer showing the superimposed weakness patterns for the first and second layers. The inner surface of the first layer is provided with sinuous scoring showing heavy lines to define a weakened region. The second layer is provided with a linear through opening which overlies the sinuous scoring in the first layer.

The invention thus describes an airbag cover and a method for manufacturing an airbag cover, comprising a first layer which is substantially intact in the region of a tear seam for the deployment of an airbag and which borders the space into which the airbag deploys if the need arises, and at least a second layer 2 which faces the folded airbag, the second layer 2 being attached to the rear side surface of the front layer so as to reinforce the first layer 1 and only the second layer 2 having a weakened region to predetermine the run of the tear seam during the deployment of the airbag.